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12 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD

ATTENTION: Mr. MacDonald

SUBJECT: Comments on Section IV, B 7, of PSB D-23,
Psychological Strategy for Southeast Asia.

1. We are opposed to the inclusion of paragraph 7, page 6, which prejudices the issue, i.e. it both lists "conditioning factors" and draws conclusions therefrom. In our opinion, the 10/2nd committee should be free to draw its own conclusions and make recommendations on the basis of the merits or adverse elements of whatever project they are considering at a given time.

2. In view of the above, it is recommended that Section IV, B 7, (page 6) be phrased as follows:

IV. B. 7

U.S. Government operations in Southeast Asia must take into consideration two factors (See Appendix A - Favorable and adverse psychological circumstances) which dominate the political psychology of the area;

a. The emotion of nationalism which pervades the thinking of politically conscious elements creating suspicion of all foreign (Western) assistance programs and activities,

b. The spirit of independence, which makes political leaders extremely sensitive to any implication that they are dependant on foreign (Western) advice or guidance.

DESMOND FITZGERALD
CIA Representative, Panel "I"



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